

also met his wonderful wife the former Celeste Aida Adams of Dayton, OH.

Next up for Vern was an assignment at Misawa Air Base Japan where he worked in the 432nd Tactical Fighter Wing. Vern's leadership abilities shined through as he performed a wide variety of cost and management analyses while also serving as the wing's budget officer. For his efforts he was named Best Base Level Cost Officer of 1986 and in 1988 was the Pacific Air Force's nominee to Ten Outstanding Young Men of America.

Upon completing 4 years in Japan, Vern once again answered the call to duty and moved to Hickam Air Force Base, HI, in June of 1990. There he joined the Pacific Air Force Headquarters staff as lead analyst for the command's flying hours, ranges and training programs. He also served there as Chief of the mission support section, overseeing civilian pay, civil engineering, and communications and base support programs.

Following subsequent assignments at the Pentagon, Seymour Johnson AFB and Headquarters AFMC, Lieutenant Colonel Simmons returned to Washington, DC, where he assumed the duties in the Budget and Appropriations Liaison Division for congressional matters. It was during this assignment that my staff and I came to know and rely on Vern. As a Senator from a State with three diverse Air Force bases, it is critical that I have the most current and reliable information about policies affecting the airmen and women from my State. Vern always came through for me and my staff. Whether sacrificing his own time to travel with us to Cannon, Holloman or Kirtland Air Force Base, or providing us with important answers to questions concerning the Air Force budget, Vern was always extremely professional, courteous and responsive. Indeed, LTC Vern Simmons has been a friend to my office, and I consider him a credit to the uniform of the U.S. Air Force.

Now, as Vern moves on to a new career, I wish the best for him, Celeste and their two children, Alessandra and Chad. It is with great pleasure that I recognize him and his accomplishments. LTC Vernon Simmons, I thank you for a job well done.

RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL LON PRIBBLE

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to LTC Lon Pribble, Deputy Chief of the Army Senate Liaison Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison who will retire on 30 August 2005. Lieutenant Colonel Pribble's career spans over 22 years during which he has distinguished himself as a soldier, leader and friend of the U.S. Senate.

A native of Kansas, Lieutenant Colonel Pribble graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1983 and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Armor Branch of the U.S. Army. During his

career he commanded at the platoon and company levels where he ably trained and led America's soldiers at home and overseas. In Kirchgoens, Germany he commanded D Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion 32nd Armor Regiment. He served in Southwest Asia as an Intelligence and Operations Officer with the 503rd Forward Support Battalion during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Lieutenant Colonel Pribble also served in staff and instructor positions in the United States at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA, and the Army Staff Management College at Fort Belvoir, VA. Prior to assuming his current duties he served as a U.S. Army Military fellow for the U.S. Senate and a congressional liaison for the House of Representatives. Since January 2003 Lon Pribble has served with distinction as the Deputy Chief, Army Senate Liaison Division where he has superbly represented the Chief of Legislative Liaison, the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Secretary of the Army, as well as promoting the interests of soldiers, their families and civilians of the Army. His professionalism, mature judgment, sage advice and interpersonal skills have earned him the respect and confidence of Members of Congress and congressional staffers with whom he has worked on a multitude of issues. In over 5 years on Capitol Hill, Lon Pribble has been a true friend of the U.S. Senate and the Congress. Serving as one the Army's primary points of contact for Senators and their staff he has assisted the Congress in understanding Army policies, actions and requirements. As a result he and the Army Senate Liaison staff have been extremely successful in providing prompt, coordinated and factual replies to all inquiries and matters involving Army issues. In addition he has provided invaluable assistance to Members and their staff while planning, coordinating and accompanying Senate delegations on official travel to numerous countries worldwide. His substantive knowledge of the key issues, keen legislative insight and ability to effectively advise senior members of the Army leadership directly contributed to the successful representation of the Army's interests before Congress.

Throughout his career, LTC Lon Pribble has demonstrated his profound commitment to our Nation, his selfless service to the Army, a deep concern for soldiers and their families and dedication to excellence. Lieutenant Colonel Pribble is a consummate professional whose performance in over 22 years of service has personified those traits of courage, competency and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from its professional Army officers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Lieutenant Colonel Pribble for his honorable service to the people and the Army of the United States. We wish him and his family Godspeed and all the best in the future.●

BRIDGEWATER, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I offer my congratulations to the town of Bridgewater, located in McCook County, SD. The town will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

The town was originally named Nation City for its founders, Robert and John B. Nation. However, it was renamed Bridgewater and moved to the northern side of the railroad tracks in 1880.

Once again, I congratulate Bridgewater on their anniversary and wish them the best of luck in the years to come.●

STICKNEY, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Stickney, SD. The town of Stickney will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Aurora County, the land for Stickney was turned over to John O. Wallace and officially became a town on August 17, 1905. The town is named for the oldest railroad agent in the United States, John B. Stickney.

I offer my congratulations to Stickney on their anniversary and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3071. An act to permit the individuals currently serving as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors, and General Counsel of the Office of Compliance to serve one additional term.

At 2:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3058. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3058. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar: